

LES VERBES FRANÇAIS (THE FRENCH VERBS)

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

French verbs can be divided into 3 main groups.

- 1- Verbs whose infinitives end in **ER**. They are called “verbes du premier groupe”, that is, verbs of the first group. [*Aller* (to go) is the only exception, and belongs to the 3rd group]
- 2- Verbs whose infinitives end in **IR AND** whose present participles end in **ISSANT**. They are called “verbes du deuxième groupe”, that is, verbs of the second group.
- 3- Verbs whose infinitives end in **IR BUT** whose present participles **DO NOT** end in **ISSANT** and other verbs ending in **OIR** and **RE**. They are called “verbes du troisième groupe”, that is, verbs of the 3rd group.

Important: Identifying/conjugating verbs of the 1st group (**ER**) can be quite easy. However, identifying verbs of the 2nd or 3rd groups can be a little tricky. That’s why it is important that we study each of these 3 different groups individually. We will spend a more time on the 2nd and 3rd groups in order to avoid any confusion between these two groups down the road.

Using the “Plug-in Method”: Learning how to conjugate French verbs without any proper method can be very frustrating and time-consuming, and can lead to inefficient results. Fortunately enough, we can look for patterns. I remember using such patterns when learning my irregular verbs in English:

To pay-paid-paid

To say-said-said

To lay-laid-laid

In French too, by using these patterns, and with the right method/formula, you can conjugate any verb (even if you have absolutely no clue what it means). Let’s identify these patterns and apply our plug-in method. (Please, go to next page for formula to apply when conjugating verbs of the first group in the present tense.)

WEEK 3- LEÇON 1: CONJUGATING VERBS OF THE 1ST GROUP IN THE PRESENT TENSE.

Formula : (All Verbs in ER- Premier Groupe- The exception is ALLER)

The 6 endings to memorize: **e /es /e /ons/ ez /ent (PRESENT TENSE)**

Je + **Verb** (ER removed) + **e**

Tu + **Verb** (ER removed) + **es**

Il/Elle + **Verb** (ER removed) + **e**

Nous + **Verb** (ER removed) + **ons**
 Vous + **Verb** (ER removed) + **ez**
 Ils/Elles + **Verb** (ER removed) + **ent**

Example : marcher (to walk)

Je + march (ER removed) + **e** -----→ **I walk**
 Tu + march (ER removed) + **es**-----→ **You walk**
 Il/Elle + march (ER removed) + **e**-----→ **He/She walks**
 Nous + march (ER removed) + **ons**-----→ **We walk**
 Vous + march (ER removed) + **ez** -----→ **You walk**
 Ils/Elles + march (ER removed) + **ent** -----→ **They walk**

Below is a list of 22 French verbs which belong to the 1st group (ER).

Aimer (to like/ to love) – **Acheter** (to buy) – **Apporter** (to bring) – **Étudier** (to study) –
Regarder (to look at) – **Commencer*** (to begin/to start) – **Écouter** (to listen) – **Donner** (to
 give) – **Danser** (to dance) – **Manger*** (to eat) – **Marcher** (to walk) – **Laver** (to wash) – **Garer**
 (to park) – **Cuisiner** (to cook) – **Arriver** (to arrive) – **Chercher** (to look for) – **Trouver** (to find)
 – **Parler** (to speak) – **Nager** (to swim) – **Corriger*** (to correct/to grade)– **Porter** (to wear) –
Penser (to think)

***There will be a slight change for the verbs commencer-manger-corriger when using NOUS
 (nous commençons-nous mangeons-nous corrigeons). I explain it in the audio file on [Youtube](#).

You may now do your [homework](#) and practice what you've learned here.